

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: Karen Terrill
Public Information Officer
(916) 654-7554

RELEASE
DATE: April 2, 2003

State Fire Marshal Reminder: Change the Clock – Change the Battery

Sacramento – Every year more than 3,000 people die in residential fires in the U.S. and more than 800 of them are children under the age of 15. About 94% of American households have smoke alarms, however of those households reporting fires, 3 out of 10 of their smoke alarms are not working, mostly because the battery is dead or missing. “Those statistics are not acceptable,” said California State Fire Marshal, John Tennant. “There is nothing worse for a fire fighter than to pull dead or injured people from a house fire and find out the smoke alarm wasn’t working properly to warn them in time.”

“As we “spring forward” this weekend for Daylight Savings Time, let’s all remember to install a new battery in every smoke alarm,” adds Chief Tennant. “It only takes a few seconds to replace the smoke alarm battery and yet that simple act could save your life and your family”.

State Fire Marshal John Tennant and all of the firefighters of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection remind you: “Before you go to bed Saturday night, set your clock forward one hour and replace the battery in every smoke alarm in your house. You’ll sleep better for it.” For more fire safety tips, visit the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov.

###

